

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABIDJA 03559 071550Z
ACTION H-03

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R 071436Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2877
INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

UNCLAS ABIDJAN 3559

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OREP (DIGGS, CHARLES), IV, AFDB, EAID
SUBJ: CODEL DIGGS VISIT TO ABIDJAN

REF: ABIDJAN 3504

1. CONGRESSMAN DIGGS' PRESS CONFERENCE AT AIRPORT APRIL 6
WAS GIVEN EXTENSIVE COVERAGE IN FRATERNITE MATIN APRIL 7.
ARTICLE HEADLINED "THE UNITED STATES HAS A MAJOR ROLE TO
PLAY IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW WORLD ORDER," OCCUPIES
ALMOST HALF PAGE AND INCLUDES PHOTOGRAPH. INTERVIEW WAS
ALSO CARRIED ON RADIO AND TELEVISION (APPROXIMATELY 5
MINUTES EVENING OF APRIL 6).

2. EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF FRATERNITE MATIN ARTICLE
FOLLOWS: BEGIN QUOTE: THE WESTERN WORLD AND THE UNITED
STATES IN PARTICULAR HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW WORLD ORDER WHICH SHOULD
BE EFFECTED BY TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY AND THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF INSTITUTIONS DESIGNED TO CONTRIBUTE
TO THE ELIMINATION OF ILLITERACY AND MISERY IN THE
REST OF THE WORLD. THIS WAS STRESSED BY MR.CHARLES
DIGGS, CHAIRMAN OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE UNITED
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PAGE 02 ABIDJA 03559 071550Z

STATES (SIC) DEALING WITH AFRICAN AFFAIRS IN A PRESS
CONFERENCE HELD SHORTLY BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FROM
ABIDJAN, WHERE HE STAYED TWO DAYS.

DR.DIGGS EMPHASIZED THAT THE U.S., WHICH CONSUMES
40 PERCENT OF WORLD PRODUCTION AND REPRESENTS ONLY 7 PERCENT OF ITS
POPULATION, MUST PLAY A LEADING ROLE IN THE SEARCH FOR

A MORE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE AFRICAN AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE WHO IS ON A STUDY VISIT IN AFRICA HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY IN PARIS, WHERE HE HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH OFFICIALS OF THE QUAI D'ORSAY DEALING WITH PROBLEMS OF THE SAHELIAN DROUGHT, AND IN LONDON WHERE HE DISCUSSED PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA WITH OFFICIALS OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE. IN ABIDJAN, MR.DIGGS SPOKE WITH DIRECTORS OF THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK CONCERNING THE PARTICIPATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND, WHICH HIS COUNTRY HAS ONLY RECENTLY JOINED.

AS REGARDS THE SOLUTIONS WHICH THE U.S. SEES FOR THE PROBLEMS OF SOUTH AFRICA, MR.DIGGS NOTED THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, OF WHICH HE IS A MEMBER, IS IN THE PROCESS OF REVISING AMERICAN POLICY TOWARDS THAT COUNTRY. THE PROBLEMS OF EVERY SORT WHICH ARE ENDEMIC THERE AND ARE A THREAT TO WORLD PEACE DO NOT HELP THE ECONOMIC INTERDEPENDENCE ALREADY EXISTING BETWEEN AMERICA AND SOUTHERN AFRICA.

CONCERNING THE SAHELIAN COUNTRIES, WHICH HE WILL VISIT AFTER ABIDJAN, MR.DIGGS SAID THAT HE WILL STUDY DROUGHT CONDITIONS AND EVALUATE THE SHORT-TERM PROGRESS ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED IN THE REGION BY AMERICAN ASSISTANCE TO HELP THE VICTIMS OF THIS CALAMITY. THE UNITED STATES IS AMONG THE LEADING DONORS TO SAHELIAN COUNTRIES.
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PAGE 03 ABIDJA 03559 071550Z

MR.DIGGS CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT IN ADDITION TO THE FINANCIAL, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL AID ALREADY EXTENDED, THE U.S. WOULD STUDY LONG-TERM MEASURES WITH A VIEW TO PREVENTING FURTHER CALAMITIES. END QUOTE.

3. EMBASSY WILL SEND CLIPPINGS TO DEPARTMENT AND TO CONGRESSMAN DIGGS.
STEARNS

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